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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Burcham becomes Gulf Region North District's sixth commander

By LuAnne Fantasia
 Gulf Region North District

COB Speicher—Colonel Margaret W. Burcham became the sixth commander of the Gulf Region North District in a ceremony at COB Speicher July 18. Prior to this assignment, Burcham was commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District.

"We Americans in the Gulf Region North District are so lucky to represent our country as professionals here in Iraq. We have everything we need to do our jobs well: a clear purpose and meaningful mission; abundant resources; the moral support of our fellow citizens; and most important, a competent and dedicated workforce of service members, Department of Army Civilians, contractors and Iraqi associates."

Burcham was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers upon graduation from the United States Military Academy in 1982, where she earned a bachelor of science degree, majoring in engineering. Subsequently, she earned her master's in computer science from Kansas State University.

To her predecessor, Burcham said, "I am most fortunate to follow in the big footsteps of such a dedicated and proficient commander. I'll do my best to carry on where you are leaving off—raising GRN to ever higher plateaus."

Relinquishing command of the Gulf Region North District was Col. Mike Pfenning, whose next assignment is executive officer, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, in the Pentagon.

"As I think back over the last year, my heart and mind are filled with many memories of sights and sounds, projects, events, successes and

tragedies - but it is the people that I've seen and will remember the most - those teammates who are with us now, those who have come before you, and those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice," Pfenning said.



Colonel Margaret W. Burcham accepts the unit colors from Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko July 18, becoming the sixth commander of the Gulf Region North District. Burcham's previous assignment was commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District. Also pictured is the Gulf Region North District Command Sgt. Maj. Mickey Seitner. (Photo by LuAnne Fantasia)

Reviewing officer was Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division, Baghdad.

The Gulf Region Division and its three districts have project and construction management responsibilities for reconstruction projects nationwide in Iraq. Since Iraq's sovereignty in 2004, the Corps has completed

more than 3,500 projects to improve Iraq's failing infrastructure, helping Iraq become a self-sufficient nation. Reconstruction projects include schools, health clinics and hospitals; water and sewage treatment plants and networks; electrical; oil; roads and bridges, and Iraqi security and military facilities.

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